

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1-7 and 18-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Payne (US 5,420,779).

Claims 9-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Payne in view of Lin et al. (US 2003/0001524).

The Specification is objected to for a minor informality.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 8 and 17 contain allowable subject matter.

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicants have amended the specification. Accordingly, claims 1-24 are pending for further consideration.

Objection to the Specification

The Specification is objected to for a minor informality. Applicants have amended the Specification in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the Specification be withdrawn.

All Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-7 and 18-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Payne (US 5,420,779), and claims 9-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Payne in view of Lin et al. (US 2003/0001524). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections as being based upon references that neither teach nor suggest the combination of features recited by independent claims 1, 9, and 18, and hence dependent claims 2-8, 10-17 and 19-24.

Independent claim 1 recites an inverter device for a liquid crystal display including, in part, “a low path switching part selectively connecting a low path of the backlight lamp with a ground voltage source in response to an external inverter ON/OFF signal.” Likewise, independent claim 18 recites a method for monitoring lamps of a liquid crystal display including, in part, a step of “selectively connecting a low path of the backlight lamp with a ground voltage source in response to an external inverter ON/OFF signal.” Similarly, independent claim 9 recites a backlight lamp monitoring device for a liquid crystal display including, in part, “a plurality of inverters,” wherein “the inverters selectively connect a low path of each of the backlight lamps with a ground voltage source in response to an external inverter ON/OFF signal.”

In contrast to Applicants’ claimed invention, Payne explicitly discloses (in FIGs. 1A-D) that the low path of the CCFL 12 is directly and continuously connected to ground. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that Payne fails to teach or suggest any circuit structure or device for “selectively connecting a low path of the backlight lamp with a ground voltage source in response to an external inverter ON/OFF signal,” as required by independent claim 1, or any method including a step of “selectively connecting a low path of the backlight lamp with a ground voltage source in response to an external inverter ON/OFF signal,” as required by independent claim 18, or a backlight lamp monitoring device including “a plurality of inverters” that “selectively connect a low path of each of the backlight lamps with a ground voltage source in response to an external inverter ON/OFF signal,” as required by independent claim 9.

In addition, Applicants respectfully assert that the Office Action does not rely upon Lin et al. to remedy the deficiencies of Payne, as detailed above. Moreover, Applicants respectfully assert that Lin et al. cannot remedy the deficiencies of Payne, as detailed above.

For at least the above reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 9, and 18 are neither taught nor suggested by Payne and/or Lin et al., whether taken alone or in combination. Thus, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a) should be withdrawn because the above-discussed novel combination of features are neither taught nor suggested by any of the applied references, whether taken singly or combined.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request entry of the above amendments, reconsideration, and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner believe that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this Response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

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If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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